

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, It is true that in 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue, but despite historic tradition it is inaccurate to imagine that he was the first nonnative to "happen upon" the continent of North America; and,

WHEREAS, Closer inspection of documented history reveals another man, a Norseman, who is known to have made the same remarkable discovery nearly 500 years before Christopher Columbus was ever born; and,

WHEREAS, His name was Leif Erickson, son of a mighty Viking named Eric the Red, and it was around the year 1000 that he ventured off on an amazing journey far to the west and south of Greenland; and,

WHEREAS, Leif Erickson's quest took him to a beautiful place rich with grapes that he named Vinland the Good--a place that we now know as the American continent; and,

WHEREAS, It is important that history not neglect this important man's contributions to his people and to the Norwegian heritage; and,

WHEREAS, It is equally important that our students in public schools and colleges in South Dakota, where so many residents are of Norwegian birth or background, should be aware and pay tribute to the memory of Leif Erickson:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 9, 1985, as

LEIF ERICKSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens, especially those of Norwegian descent, to pay tribute to the memory of Leif Erickson on this day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Ninth Day of September, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Five


WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA - OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
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DATE MICROFORMED 22 JULY 1986
CAMERA OPERATOR 24 REC'D BY 24 REC'D BY